

ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

May 10, 2010, 6 P.M.

1st Floor Conference Room

36 Bartlet Street

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. Present were Ms. Candace B. Martin, Chairman, Ms. Katherine Kellman, Clerk, and Mr. Thomas G. Carbone, Director of Public Health. Dr. Donald H. Miller, Vice-Chairman, was absent due to a scheduling conflict.

I. Approval of Minutes

• **Regular Meeting of April 12, 2010**

Motion by Ms. Martin seconded by Ms. Kellman to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2010 with the following correction:

- On page 4, under **VII. Staff Reports, A. Director's Reports:** • **Flu Summit After Action**, first sentence, change "Mr. Carbone informed the Board that at the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA), received a Public Health Hero Award..." to "Mr. Carbone informed the Board *that at the Flu Summit, the* Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) received a Public Health Hero Award..."

Unanimous approval.

III. Appointments & Hearings

- **6:00 p.m. – Andover Baseball Camp – New Camp Hearing** – Present was Dan Grams who was appearing before the Board to request permission to become a camp in Andover by the name of "Andover High School Baseball Camp". Mr. Carbone explained that State law requires a Public Hearing on any new camp. Mr. Grams took out a legal ad in the Andover Townsman stating that a Public Hearing would be taking place this evening. Mr. Grams has been meeting with Patricia A. Crafts, Health Agent, to help him get the camp documentation set up. Ms. Martin asked that, since the camp will be on school property, if the camps have to get permission from the Town to use Town property. Mr. Carbone explained that the High School Athletic Director is involved and the Plant and Facilities Department does the permitting for use of the Town property, which has all been approved for this new camp. The camp is responsible for providing insurance while the camp is operating. Mr. Grams expects to start his camp on June 28th and will work diligently to get all documentation ready in time to start on that date. The Board stressed to him that it was very important to get the documentation ready early enough so that the camp can start on time, and Mr. Grams replied that he intended to have everything ready by

Memorial Day. Mr. Carbone recommended approval of the new camp with conditions as stated in the motion below.

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman, to approve the operation of the Andover High School Baseball Camp subject to final approval of the Health Staff. Unanimous approval.

IV. Discussion

- **Flouridation of Drinking Water** – Ms. Martin stated that some of the articles Mr. Carbone supplied for the Board listed many reasons to oppose the use of fluoride in the drinking water but also found a rebuttal to those issues. Most of the data seemed to be old data from 1982, but the articles were published, not private opinion. Ms. Kellman stated that the articles seemed to reference scientific data rather than political opinion, and found it very interesting that the articles had to look to other countries to find places that were against fluoridation of the water. Ms. Martin stated that some of the items she read had no references. Also, the control of how much fluoride is added to the water was a concern. Fluoride is not considered a natural nutrient, but there was a rebuttal to that claim in one of the articles. Ms. Kellman had a concern that infants were drinking the fluoridated water that was mixed in with formula since infants tend to drink more water than their body weight. Mr. Carbone stated that he did have a complaint from a resident who had issues with his teeth that he attributed to the use of fluoride in the water, but Public Health is concerned with what is best for the entire population of the Town. The Board discussed one of the articles that stated affluent communities had better dental hygiene because they were able to spend more money on their teeth and go to the dentist on a regular basis. The Board also discussed the fact that Amesbury stopped putting fluoride in the water because their equipment failed and they believed the fluoride ate it away. Ms. Martin stated that she wanted to continue researching this issue on her own and would like Dr. Miller to have a chance to give his opinion on this, so she requested that the Board speak about this issue again at the June 7, 2010 Board of Health Meeting.
- **Future Educational Sessions** – Mr. Carbone supplied the Board with a list of training materials that he thought could benefit them as Board Members and asked which items they may be interested in. Ms. Martin stated that she was interested in seeing the video on “Septic System Construction Inspections” because she felt it would help her to understand plans better with that knowledge. Ms. Kellman stated she was also interested in that video as well as the video on “Responding to Chemical/Radiological Terrorism”. Ms. Kellman asked what “Rick Communication” was about and Mr. Carbone stated that it informs Health Officials how to explain risks to the public such as when there is a chemical spill or gas spill near the public drinking water supply. There are also trainings on how to run a Public Hearing. There was a Cape Cod study that showed two communities and the contrasting experiences they had when having a Public Hearing on smoking regulations. At the first meeting, the residents began yelling and the Board lost total control. The next day, the other community ran the same meeting and the Chairman kept everyone under control by giving each resident five minutes to speak and not allowing any yelling. Mr. Carbone

will put a short training session on each agenda for several months for the Board to view.

- **Fish Brook Watershed Advisory Committee Report (Separate Insert)** – The Board was very impressed with the report and commented on the graphs and charts that were used. Mr. Carbone explained this started as a Fish Brook Initiative Task Force in 2004, then in 2006 became the Fish Brook Watershed Advisory Committee. In 2009 they released their final report. Steve Boynton, Tom Brady, David Adilman, Pat Donahue and John Zipeto are willing to stay on and continue to monitor the water supply. The Board discussed the graphs and Mr. Carbone explained how the cold, deep water shows as blue. By having the information in the report, we can test again in the upcoming years to see how the sediment changes. The best time to test is after the ice is out and before the heat starts so we can see where the salt is and where the ground water intrusion is, and if salt is being taken in with it. Mr. Adilman was thinking we may also have ground water influencing the pond, not just surface water. Also, groundwater wells were installed around the pond. Mr. Carbone offered to invite the Committee to the next Board of Health Meeting on June 7, 2010, so the Board could meet with them and thank them. The Board responded that they would be pleased to meet with them.

V. Old Business

- N/A

VI. Definitive Subdivision Plans

- N/A

VII. Plan Review

A. D.W.R.P. Variances/Local Upgrade Approval

- **1 Seneca Circle – LUA to Allow SAS to be 3' Above Water Table, 5' Required – Amend Conditional Approval** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that the applicant was requesting a change to last meeting's approval of the LUA to now include the installation of a garbage grinder, reflected in the revised plans that were submitted to accommodate the garbage grinder. Mr. Carbone recommended the Board approve the LUA with the amendment to the conditional approval as follows:

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman to rescind the previous decision of the Board of Health Meeting of April 12, 2010, and to issue a new decision to approve the LUA to allow SAS to be 3' above water table, 5' required, with the following conditions:

1. *Prior to the issuance of a construction permit, the applicant must receive approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the LUA.*

2. *Prior to the issuance of a construction permit, the applicant must cause all approval letters and related documentation to be filed at the Registry of Deeds as required in the state's Presby approval.*

Unanimous approval.

VII. Staff Reports

A. Director's Report:

- **Nurses' Award** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that the Town Nurses, Joanne Martel, R.N., Assistant Health Director, and Jane Morrissey, R.N. Public Health Nurse, were selected to win the Masspro Excellence in Immunization Award to be presented to them on May 11, 2010.
- **Interns** - Mr. Carbone informed the Board that one of the Interns, Kerri Barton, from Boston University, is starting next week, and Kirstin Heinrich, from Tulane University, who is an Andover resident, will be starting in June.
- **Updates on Animal Regulations, Kirkland Drive, and the Salt Shed** - Mr. Carbone informed the Board that there are no updates to report at this time.
- **Merrimack Valley Planning Commission** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that he is concerned with how people in the region want to look at Public Health and sharing of Inspectional Services. The Board of Selectmen have been looking at this and asked if we could share inspectors. Mr. Carbone is concerned because everyone is fully utilized at this time, so if our only full-time Health Inspector is out inspecting other towns, her inspections would not get done in a timely manner for the Town of Andover. Also, if other towns have people with excess time (there are none), there has to be a way for the town to pay for those services. Right now we are short a full-time Inspector; Daniel Tremblay retired and only works on a part-time basis of nine hours a week. In addition, the full-time Plumbing/Sewer Inspector will be retiring and the Board of Selectmen is looking at making that a part-time position. There has also been a lot of talk in other communities about putting inspectional services out to bid to save on insurance and other costs. Mr. Carbone has concerns because, right now, there is no excess capacity out there. We do have some people contracted to help with inspections, but they are paid a small stipend per inspection and Mr. Carbone has concerns that the pay will not be sufficient to attract too many more contractors. Ms. Kellman expressed concern that you would lose the commitment, pride and ownership that a full-time employee has. Mr. Carbone also participated in a conference call with the State concerning regionalization. One idea is to combine community Health Departments, eliminate a Health Director, and put that money towards more inspectors. The goal is to improve public health, but Mr. Carbone is concerned that the pool of resources could be decimated in a few years' time. If staff is cut too much, there will not be a good response to complaints or

inspections of problem food establishments as well as septic and sewer inspections.

- **Sentinel Site** – Mr. Carbone explained that the State is looking at our Emergency Dispensing sites, and every year they identify something to be improved upon. The State tracks our Emergency Preparedness Plans, and this year a University Research Grant will supply us with someone to help us redo our plan. As a Sentinel Site, we will be used to gauge the preparedness of the region. Andover was selected because we are the leader and host of the MRC (Medical Reserve Corps), which opens us up to do a face-to-face with the CDC and opens us up to greater scrutiny as well.
- **Lantern Brunch Sale Update** - Mr. Carbone informed the Board that the owner was still planning on selling the restaurant, and requested another meeting with Mr. Carbone to discuss what he needs to do to sell.
- **New Restaurant - Casa Blanca – 10 Main Street** - Ms. Martin was pleased that a new restaurant was opened to replace the closed Serene Restaurant.
- **Important Dates:**
 - May 12th @ 1:30 p.m. – MDPH Commissioner’s Regional Meeting – Gloucester.
 - May 17th – A Generation Without Smallpox @ the Public Health Museum, Tewksbury @ 2 p.m.
 - May 22nd @ 11:00 a.m., Health Fair @ Memorial Hall Library.
 - June 7th @ 6 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting.
 - June 8th @ 9 a.m. – Wood Hill Student Report.
 - July 12th @ 6 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting.

B. Nurses’ Report for April, 2010 –The Nurses’ Report was for informational purposes only.

C. Inspectors’ Reports for April, 2010 – The Inspectors’ Reports were for informational purposes only.

VIII. Board Member Reports

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Kellman, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Unanimous approval.